

008017-000244.JBM.214803

Atty. Docket No. 8017-244

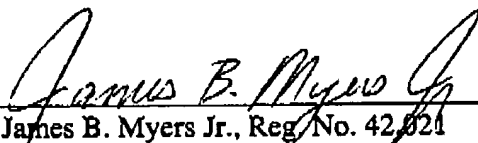
REMARKS

This application contains claims 1-25 pending and under consideration. In the Office Action dated March 26, 2003, claims 1-25 were rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of double patenting over claims 1-24 of co-pending US Patent Application 09/611,332. This is the only rejection remaining in the present application. Under MPEP §804 I.B., when the "double patenting rejection in one application is the only rejection remaining in that application, the Examiner should then withdraw that rejection and permit the application to issue as a patent, thereby converting the 'provisional' double-patenting rejection in the other application(s) into a double-patenting rejection at the time the one application issues as a patent." (MPEP §804 I.B 8<sup>th</sup> Ed. Rev. 1, 2003.) The co-pending US patent application 09/611,233 has not yet been allowed. This co-pending application was rejected in a Final Office Action over Little, (US 5,071,580) as well as a provisional double patenting rejection. The undersigned has submitted a Response to those rejections, but has yet to receive a subsequent Notice of Allowance or Advisory Action.

As noted above, the provisional double patenting rejection is the only rejection remaining in the present application. Consequently, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn and that this application be allowed to issue with claims 1-25. In addition, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney if there are any questions about this submission or other formal matters, which may be addressed in that fashion to facilitate allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

By:

  
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